

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, February 7, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Washington, D. C. 1302 Conn. Ave., Feb. 7th (1881) My dear Mrs. Bell:

I am thoroughly ashamed of my long silence the more that I see it has caused you uneasiness. We are all well, Alec not quite in his usual health or strength, but still very nearly so, and feeling so unless he overexcites himself. He has gone to New York to meet Chester and I hope the journey will do him good. My babies are well, and rosy. I would have written long ago, but ever since our arrival every moment of my time has been taken up in the daytime and at night. I am generally too tired and sleepy for anything but the sofa. First there was Alec who for some weeks was my chief care. He was not in bed, but either so blue, and so anxious to break all the doctors orders, that I hardly dared leave him a moment. Then both babies had colds, and my house was half furnished and most of my servants new. Altogether it took me some time to look around and I am even yet not quite settled. For the last week or two my time has been spent chiefly in furniture stores buying furniture for Chester's rooms. Alec has taken a small unfurnished house for Chester which Mary Home takes care of, Chester having his lunch and dinner with us. I have done my best worked hard and spent a good deal of money, and am supremely dissatisfied with the result. Isn't it discouraging. I am in despair when I think of furnishing my own house. About your house Alec has done nothing further, as he has been very busy and very much excited over some new discoveries, but I believe he will decide upon taking a house on the hills for a 2 year to let you try it, then he will buy a lot of land for his new laboratory. Mr. Van Brunt, our architect, is taking one story off our house, and making a few other alterations which he thinks will bring it within our means. If he succeeds I think we shall decide to build this year. This is a pretty big house, and all the rooms are a mile from each other, which Alec thinks is an advantage, and I don't.

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I hope you are coming for Inauguration Day, I have two or three spare rooms here and one at Chester's house so there is no danger of our being too crowded. Daisy has a birthday party on the 15th, she will entertain in a large empty room in the fourth floor.

With much love, Your loving, Mabel.